December
1946

Millennial Star

LEADERS OF MODERN ISRAEL

ELDER ALMA SONNE

ARRIVING in England November 16th, 1946, was the new European Mission President, Elder Alma Sonne. This is his second visit to "GOOD OLD ENGLAND," as he eloquently names this green island home of ours.

President Sonne was named an assistant to the twelve, April 6th, 1946. He has a record of long outstanding achievements to his credit in both church and civil life.

May we extend to you, President Sonne, on behalf of the Saints in Great Britain and in Europe, a hearty welcome.

ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

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EDITOR
Selvoy J. Boyer

Associate Editor
Horace E. Heyes

149 Nightingale Lane, London, S.W.12. Telephone: Battersea 4510

Farewell . . . . . Welcome

THE Saints of the British Mission, with feeling of love and affection, say to President Benson, Farewell, and may the Lord in His wisdom permit you some time to return and visit with all of us again. Your love of the Gospel and foresight and knowledge will always be an inspiration to each of the Saints who remain behind, and while we are sad at parting, we are also made happy with the thought of welcoming back again to this land President Alma Sonne. Also Sister Sonne. This is her first stay in England.

President Sonne laboured in the Newcastle District and the Liverpool office thirty years ago, and will be remembered by many of the Saints.

To meet President Sonne is to love and respect him; and so the work of the Lord will go on and grow under his leadership as it has with President Benson. May the day never come again when we will have to labour without one of the General Authorities being present with the European Mission.

S. J. B.

President Smith's Opening

Following is the full text of the opening conference address of President George Albert Smith delivered Friday morning, October 4th, 1946, in the Salt Lake Tabernacle.

I HAVE sometimes said to my friends in different parts of the world, when referring to these great gatherings, the annual and semi-annual conferences of the Church, that they will see no other spectacle like them in all the world, and I believe this to be true.

These conferences offer the opportunity for the officers of the Church from all parts of the world to meet and to become acquainted with one another, and to be edified under the influence of the Spirit of the Lord. Fortunate are we that those who came to this valley in an early day erected this splendid structure. There is not anything like it to be found elsewhere, a building that will make comfortable approximately ten thousand people, and all can hear the speaker. Of course, with our modern devices, we can hear very well.

We come together, not just to visit, not just to be seen, but as sons and daughters of the living God, we assemble in His name and He has never failed to fulfil His promise made of old, that when two or three shall meet together in His name, He will be there and that to bless them. And so we look forward to these gatherings every six months, and have joy in being able to go back to our homes with the statement that the Lord was with us and blessed us and we enjoyed the power of His spirit.

Of course this is only a little handful of the membership of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints compared to the great number that belong to it. The first conference of the Church was held on June 9th, 1830, and there were eighteen present. The second conference was held a few months later with about the same number present, then the first annual conference of the Church was held June 3rd, 1831, just one year later, and there were present in that conference, 43 Elders, 10 Priests, and 10 Teachers, making a total of 63 present.

In those days the meetings were held for the officers of the Church and the public was not generally invited to attend, but later in Nauvoo it became customary to invite the public, and from that time on, each six months the membership of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints have been invited to meet with the Lord in a General Conference of such a character as the one we assemble in this morning.

As I look out into this audience and see the men and women who are here, I recognize those that I have known, many of them from my childhood. I have been in many of your homes and have been entertained most graciously, when I have been visiting the stakes of Zion and the missionary field. Every once in a while we are able to get together here and enjoy the companionship of one another, and, more than that, to feel the power that comes from our Heavenly Father in fulfilment of His promise that He will be with us.

The conditions in the world today are anything but desirable. After nearly six thousand years of teaching by the Lord through His prophets, the world is still in a pitiable condition, with about two-thirds of the population not accepting the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. They have their own deities whom they worship, their own false gods who have kept them far from the truth during the centuries that have elapsed. Of the other one-third of the population of this world, so-called Christians, about 50 per cent do not have membership in a church, or if they are enrolled they are inactive, so that it leaves a small por-

tion of the people of the world who have, after all these years of advice and counsel, taken advantage of their opportunities. Unless the people of this world hasten their repentance and turn to the Lord, the conditions that we have recently passed through in this great world war will be intensified in wickedness and sorrow. So this morning, my dear brothers and sisters — and I speak the word "dear" with all my heart—I am grateful for your fellowship. As we meet together, how thankful we ought to be, how grateful our souls should be when we contemplate our surroundings and our wonderful opportunities!

"Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins and that ye receive not of her plagues," (Revelations 18: 4) was written about two thousand years ago.

The gospel of Jesus Christ was restored in the year 1830, after centuries of darkness had passed. When the call was given, the missionaries of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints went out into the world—not to criticise others, not to find fault, but to say to our Father's other children, "Keep all the good that you have received, keep all the truth that you have learned, all that has come to you in your homes, in your institutions of learning, under your many facilities for education, keep it all; and then let us divide with you additional truths that have been revealed by our Heavenly Father in our day." Under that ministry, beginning, as I have said, in that conference when there were only sixty-three members of the priesthood present, there have been thousands upon thousands of missionaries. More than sixty thousand have gone out into the world, and in love and kindness they have gone from door to door saying to our Father's other children: "Let us reason with you, let us explain to you something that we are sure will make you happy as it has made us happy."

That is the history of the missionary work of the Church with which we are identified. Today we have missionaries scattered in many parts of the earth, some of them are in the armed services and rejoicing in their testimonies, they have been glad to divide the truth with those with whom they came in contact.

Just a few weeks ago I was invited to have a little visit with some of our service men who are in Kyoto, Japan. One of our brethren here in the valley telephoned me that he had a licensed short-wave station, and said, "If you will come down, Brother Smith, I will let you talk to the men and women in the armed services who are absent from their homes and are now over there serving the government of the United States." I did not know just what it was going to be like. I went to his little station and after a moment or two, he called a station and talked back and forth with the man at the other end. That was the Philippine Islands, so he said, "We are not visiting with you today. We are going to visit Japan." Then he switched from there to one of the other islands in the Pacific and told them the same thing. And then, when he was ready, after a little conversation with the station in Japan, he said, "Now Brother Smith, there are two hundred and three members of the Church that will hear your voice just as soon as you speak."

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DEMAND FOR PROPER RESPECT OF HUMAN LIFE

By
President J. Reuben Clark, Jnr.

AS the Saviour and the apostles were on the shores of the Sea of Galilee on that early morning, Jesus asked Peter, "Lovest thou me more than these?" "Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee." "Feed my sheep." And the only excuse and likewise the only reason that any of us have for standing before you in this conference is that we shall feed you.

We speak often, and properly, of the great blessings which we have, the blessings that are given to us by the Lord. But sometimes I wonder if our thought may not be mostly concerned with what we get instead of what we give. In that great sermon of Paul to the Elders of Ephesus, he said Jesus had declared: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." There is something very remarkable about what we have to give under the gospel plan. No matter how much we give of truth, of good example, of righteous living, our stores, our blessings increase, not decrease, by that which we give away. There are two or three miracles in the Bible that impress me in this connection. One was the barrel of meal which Elijah blessed after the good woman who owned it said that if she gave to him it would take all she had. That barrel of meal, blessed by Elijah, did not thereafter fail. The more she took from it the more she had to give. Elisha blessed that cruse of oil for the widow who was in dire debt and about to lose her sons as bondmen, so that she filled from that cruse not alone the utensils which she herself had, but those which, pursuant to the prophet's orders, she went out and borrowed. All were filled that she could obtain. The Saviour on the banks of the Sea of Galilee fed five thousand with five loaves and two little fishes, yet when they had finished they gathered up twelve baskets full of what was left. So when on the plain He fed the four thousand, from seven loaves and a few little fishes.

And so it is with God's spiritual blessings to us. We have the truth; we possess the priesthood; both are given into our care. We are responsible for the use we make of them. We are expected to give out of our store all that we possibly can give away, and in proportion as we give unto others, we become thereby more and more enriched ourselves. "It is more blessed to give than to receive." I repeat, as possessors of truth our mission is to minister therefrom to others. And the more of truth we give away, the more we shall have. The more we righteously use the priesthood, the greater its powers will grow in us.

I thought perhaps it might be useful (and if I did not think it would, I would not proceed) if I were to trace out very briefly and imperfectly some of the principles governing the intercourse of nations in times of war.

After the fall of the Roman Empire, the world fell into the Dark Ages, and then apparently every excess that could be invented by man was practiced as nations went to war. Things became so bad that finally at about the period of the Reformation, men's consciences became shocked at man's inhumanity to man, and they began to try to see if something could not be done to bring more humanity into the conduct of war. Along in the late fifteen hundreds a very great Dutchman was born, Hugo Grotius, who, in the course of his life prepared the first great work on international law. In the preface to that monumental work which has stood as the great classic from that time until this (and you cannot reach much farther back when you go into international law of the modern time, than Grotius), as I say, in his preface, he made this statement of the reasons why he wrote this treatise:

"I saw prevailing throughout the Christian world a license in making war of which even barbarous nations would have been ashamed; recourse being had to arms for slight reasons or no reasons; and when arms were once taken up, all reverence for divine and human law was thrown away, just as if men were thenceforth authorized to commit all crimes without restraint."

Because of this condition Grotius wrote his great work "De Jure Belli et Pacis," which was the beginning of the bringing into war of something of humanity, if humanity may be properly spoken of in connection with war.

First, an effort was made to draw the distinction between combatants and non-combatants. War was to be waged between armies and not between civilian peoples. Statesmen and nations sought to relieve non-combatants from the woes, cruelties, and horrors of war. Old men, women, children, the decrepit and infirm were to be protected, not slaughtered. Many other humanizing elements came in relating to prisoners of war and the treatment of wounded.

As time went on and as a result of that code, other codes were framed by various international conferences, notably The Hague Conferences of 1899 and 1907. Furthermore they provided certain inhibitions on the waging of war which I think you might be interested in hearing me name. They adopted a declaration prohibiting the dropping of projectiles from balloons; they provided that poison gasses should not be used; that poison itself should not be used. They repeated the prohibitions that undefended towns should not be bombarded. Family honour was to be respected; pillage and rape and arson and the whole train of like crimes that we read so much about today were forbidden.

Then came World War I and we began to sag back into barbarism. World War II followed. All distinctions between combatant and non-combatants disappeared. This was inevitably so if they used the kind of weapons they employed. So we had destroyed in England many towns, some of those suffering most being Sheffield, Hull, Manchester, Coventry and London. There were many towns in Germany equally destroyed, including Berlin, and particularly Dresden, and as to this last city, some of our people, Americans, are affirming that the bombardment of Dresden (where it is said we killed in two nights more than two hundred and fifty thousand people, men, women and children, including wounded who had been collected there) was in violation of a tacit understanding that if Germany would leave Oxford and Cambridge alone, we would not touch Dresden. I do not know how true this report is; but we know the result.

Now do not forget that all of the nations had prepared before World War II to use aircraft, they had already used submarines in World War I, and we in this area know we were prepared to use poison gasses. Then, as the crowning savagery of the war, we Americans wiped out hundreds

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Safeguards against the Delinquency of Youth

By
President David O. McKay

"I CHARGE thee," wrote Paul to Timothy, "before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, . . . to preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering."

In the same letter he prophetically declared "that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, . . . lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof."

It is in the spirit of Paul's charge and prophecy that I approach the subject of safeguards against delinquency of youth. In naming these safeguards I have nothing new to offer. You have heard them mentioned frequently, but I think, as with the gospel principles, it is fitting that we be active in season and out of season, that we reprove, rebuke, exhort, admonish, with all longsuffering as we contemplate the rising crime-wave and bring home to each of us, if possible, the realization that greater diligence is needed.

Few will question that we are living in perilous times, that many people have lost their moorings and are being "tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive."

A short time ago, a commission on evangelism, appointed by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, made a report revealing some astounding facts on the present-day status of "Christian" England. The report said:

"The present irrelevance of the Church in the life and thought of the community in general is apparent from two symptoms which admit of no dispute. They are (1) the widespread decline in church going; and (2) the collapse of Christian moral standards." Associated with this was the statement that only from 10 to 15 per cent of the population are closely linked to any Christian church.

Commenting upon this report, one of the daily papers in England, said, among other things:

"Youth is largely indifferent to Christianity—finding in religion no relevance to life, and in life itself no meaning. If we inquire what it is that has caused these alarming symptoms of national decline and fall, the answer is that our generation has succumbed to the age long delusion of a self-sufficient humanism which puts man (not God) in the centre of his world, and regards man (not God) as the standard of reference. The worst, however, is not yet told, for the Church itself has become infected with the spirit of the age, and has thereby lost its vision, its vitality and its spiritual authority. The real problem is not the 90 per cent which stand outside the churches, but the 10 per cent inside the churches, so many of whom

are only half converted and ill-instructed."

Truly it would seem that men and women are either groping blindly for the truth or have become lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God, having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof.

Among the glaring evil products of the war and post-war periods are two which seem to me to be most portentious and which should be curbed if we would preserve true Christian ideals.

These are:

1. An increasing tendency to dishonour the marriage vow, and,

2. The upswing in juvenile delinquency.

Careful research would undoubtedly disclose a close relationship between these two unwholesome social conditions.

MARRIAGE LOOSENESS AND INFIDELITY

As evidence of the first, we need only to glance at the number of divorces, even among temple marriages, mentioned impressively in his appeal last evening by President George Albert Smith. In the country at large one out of every five marriages are separated by the ever-grinding divorce mill. Recent statistics disclose that we now have one out of three.

Bearing tragic witness to the lessening regard for purity in marriage is the large number of so-called war-brides whose husbands have returned to face broken promises and tragic instances of infidelity.

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

But it is to the ever-increasing crime wave that I desire to call attention this morning. Children are being corrupted by it; youth are caught in its whirlpool, and are being contaminated overwhelmingly by it. According to the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, "it is mounting in intensity. It is growing in severity. It is not isolated. It is nation-wide." Referring to conditions during the war, he comments: "There was the spirit of wartime abandon, for example, with its last-fling philosophy which provided justification to less resolute wills to violate the conventions of society. Lessons in school became secondary. Girls sacrificed virtue on a false shrine of patriotism. Arrests for prostitution increased 375 per cent disorderly conduct 357 per cent., and drunkenness and driving while intoxicated 174 per cent among girls under eighteen in the wartime years. To those who were not grounded in fundamentals, established values disappeared, and an attitude of impermanence superseded individual responsibility. Conflicts between liberty and license manifested themselves in wrong doing. Personal responsibility in too many homes has become archaic and old-fashioned."

The passing parade of crime presents a sordid spectacle. "Out of each 1,000 marching in this endless parade, 521 have marched before to a prior arrest, and 210 are under 21 years of age. More persons aged 17 are arrested than in any other age group. Of each 1,000 murderers, 140 are under 21 years of age; of every 1,000 robbers, 360 are under 21; of burglars, 516; of thieves, 340; of arsonists, 250; of 1,000 car thieves, 630 are under 21; and of 1,000 rapists, 320 are under 21 years of age."

In calling attention to these statistics, and in my comments later, I would not have you think that young people generally do not merit our confidence. It is the few, not the many of whom we now speak.

When, a few years ago, a little four-year-old lad wandered into the bad lands of North Dakota, the whole countryside was aroused and organized for the rescue. They gave no thought, however, to the hundreds of four-year-olds who were safe in their mothers' keeping. A train wreck or an aero-

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Farewell ! . . . . God Bless You !

TO the Saints, my beloved brethren and sisters, friends and people generally throughout the European Mission, greetings:

Regretfully, but with a heart overflowing with gratitude, I take leave of the elders, Saints and the populace, and retire from the Presidency of the European Mission. On February 4th, 1946—twenty-one days after the announcement of my appointment to this honourable position by the First Presidency of the Church—I landed in England by aeroplane, accompanied by my secretary and faithful companion, Elder Frederick W. Babbel. My regrets are all for the parting now in prospect, a parting with kind and loving friends I have made in and out of the Church during my sojourn of more than ten months among you. My gratitude springs from an unshakeable knowledge that the Almighty has opened the way and prepared the path before me and that mission presidents, elders, Saints and friends have extended their loving help and cooperation throughout the difficult months following the world's greatest war of destruction, centering, as it has, within the boundaries of the European Mission.

Elder Alma Sonne, Assistant to the Council of the Twelve—a true and faithful servant of the Lord and a lover of humanity—has been appointed by the First Presidency to preside in Europe. He has already arrived, and together we have made brief visits to ten of the twelve missions which comprise the European Mission. I bespeak for him the same loyal support, love and esteem that have always been shown towards me. All future communications pertaining to the Mission should be directed to President Sonne.

In the providence of the Lord, I am now to return to my mountain home where my ever-faithful wife, children and other loved ones await me and I shall be privileged again to enjoy the priceless associations of the brethren in the Presiding Councils of the Church.

President Ezra Taft Benson

As I bid you adieu, there passes before me a panoramic view of the unprecedented experiences of the past few months. These have been both heart-rending and soul-satisfying. They have made impressions that will remain so long as time shall last. It has been a sobering, thought-provoking period. With the terrible ravages of war or every side —the result of man's sinful disobedience of the commandments of the Lord—and man's wicked misuse of the bounties of nature, one is made to exclaim: "O! God, how long will Thy children continue their inhuman slaughter of their fellowmen? How long will the leaders of nations pursue the futile destruction of war? When will the suffering of little children, old men and women, and innocent people everywhere cease and they be called upon no longer to endure the ravages of fiends in human form? When will men and nations learn the way of peace and the futility of bloody conflict?"

Amidst all the terrible aftermath of war, the contact with the Saints

in all the war-torn countries has been a sad though inspiring experience. Here we have witnessed the fruits of the Restored Gospel in the lives of our members. We have not been disappointed. Here we have found faith, loyalty and devotion unsurpassed in the annals of Church history. Only through a testimony, that God lives and has revealed Himself from heaven and established His Church, can men and women stand amidst the rubble, which was once happy homes, with hope and courage. Only with a faith in the ultimate consumation of the Lord's purposes can people, with all their earthly possessions swept away, continue with spirits sweet and hearts free from bitterness. No man-made organization or set of dogmas can make people look hopefully forward with confident faith as they stand, the only remaining member of a once happy and prosperous family. Thank God for the testimony which our Saints possess! It has been their all during the dark days of war. This alone, and the sweet companionship of the Holy Spirit, has sustained them. Nothing else is so precious. With this faith and testimony they have carried on with their meetings in bombed-out churches, homes and in the open air. With this faith they have been united, they have sustained each other. They have, in very deed, been their brother's keeper.

And so to the Saints throughout Europe I say God bless you. I love you beyond my power of expression. I have been happiest when mingling with you in sweet communion, blessed with the presence of the Spirit of the Lord. As I have travelled among you —travelling over 50,000 miles during the past ten months—I have been grateful to shake your hands, to look into your eyes and know you are in very deed my brethren and sisters in the true fold of the Church of Jesus Christ. I shall never forget your love and the many acts of kindness, extending even to personal acts of affection for my loyal wife and companion, whom you have never seen. Your evidence of faith and love are more precious than riches. These acts are engraven upon my heart forever. Gratefully do I acknowledge your loving kindness to me as a servant of Jesus Christ. Our Father in Heaven will also have your acts in remembrance.

I BLESS YOU IN THE NAME OF THE LORD AND PROMISE YOU THE RICHEST BLESSINGS OF ETERNITY INASMUCH AS YOU CONTINUE FAITHFUL. Be not cast down, dear brethren and sisters. Let not your faith waver. God still rules. He is at the helm. He has not forgotten you, nor will He do so, if you keep sacred your covenants as members of His Church. Therefore, as He has said to His Saints, "Fear not, little flock; do good; let earth and hell combine against you, for if ye are built upon My rock, they cannot prevail." So let it be. And if the clouds gather for a moment, be assured that behind every cloud for YOU there is a smiling Providence.

"What tho' the clouds seem dark today,

Tomorrow's will be blue.
When every cloud has cleared away,

God's Providence shines through."

Be true to every standard and teaching of the Church. Support loyally your mission, district and branch presidents and other officers. Cease from all evil speaking and fault-finding. Be united. Keep the Sabbath day holy. Pay your tithes and offerings. Attend to your family and secret prayers daily. Give freely of your time, means and talents for the building up of the Kingdom of God in the earth. Be kind to your families. Be pure in mind and body. Keep the Spirit of God in your homes and in your hearts. Be wise and prudent as you go forward with energy and determination to fill the full measure of your creation in the earth. Perform with soberness, but with happy and

joyous hearts, the work at hand, knowing that all is well if we live righteously. Do all this and eventually you shall be exalted on high and triumph over all your enemies. There, I trust in that Eternal World, we shall meet in sweet reunion, where war and sin are no more, in the sweet fellowship which we have but tasted here. If we are worthy it shall be so, which I fervently pray for us all.

And now before leaving this hemisphere to return home, I feel to direct a few words of solemn warning to the nations, rulers and peoples of the countries through which I have travelled. Having been called and sent of God, this is done in the spirit of humility and with a recognition that we are all children of our Heavenly Father and that He desires to bless us. But He cannot look upon sin with the least degree of allowance. Great calamities for the nations are impending. There is only one way of escape: it is the way the God of this earth has provided.

To the rulers and peoples of these European nations, I solemnly declare that the God of Heaven has established His latter-day Kingdom upon the earth in fulfilment of prophecies uttered by His ancient prophets and apostles. Holy angels have again communed with men on the earth. God has again revealed Himself from heaven and restored to the earth His Holy Priesthood with power to administer in all the sacred ordinances necessary for the exaltation of His children. His Church has been re-established among men with all the spiritual gifts enjoyed anciently. All this is done in preparation for Christ's Second Coming. The great and dreadful day of the Lord is near at hand. In preparation for this great event and as a means of escaping the impending judgments, inspired messengers have gone forth to the nations of the earth carrying this testimony and warning.

The nations of the earth continue in their sinful and unrighteous ways. The unbounded knowledge with which men have been blessed has been used to destroy mankind instead of to bless the children of men as the Lord intended. Two great world wars in the past 25 years, with fruitless efforts at lasting peace, are solemn evidence that peace has been taken from the earth because of the wickedness of the people. Nations cannot endure in sin. They will be broken up, but the Kingdom of God will endure forever.

Therefore, as a humble servant of the Lord, I call upon the leaders of nations to humble themselves before God, to seek His inspiration and guidance. I call upon rulers and people alike to repent of their evil ways. Turn unto the Lord, seek His forgiveness and unite yourselves in humility with His Kingdom. There is no other way. If you will do this, your sins will be blotted out, peace will come and remain, and you will become a part of the Kingdom of God in preparation for Christ's Second Coming, which is near at hand. But if you refuse to repent or to accept the testimony of His inspired messengers and unite yourselves with God's Kingdom, then the terrible judgments and calamities promised the wicked will be yours.

The Lord in His mercy has provided a way of escape. The voice of warning is to all people by the mouths of His servants. If this voice is not heeded, the angels of destruction will go forth again and the chastening hand of Almighty God will be felt upon the nations, as decreed, until a full end thereof will be the result. Wars, devastation and untold suffering will be your lot except you turn unto the Lord in humble repentance. Destruction, even more terrible and far-reaching than attended the war just ended, will come with certainty unless rulers and people alike repent and cease their evil and Godless ways. God will not be mocked. He will not permit sins of immorality, thievery,

deceit, Sabbath-breaking, and disregard for all His holy commandments and the messages of His servants to go unheeded without grievous punishment for such wickedness. The nations of Europe and of the world cannot endure in sin. The way of escape is clear. The immutable laws of God remain steadfastly in the heavens above. When men and nations refuse to abide by them the penalty must follow. They will be wasted away. Sin cannot endure.

And now, although I have been permitted to bear my humble testimony verbally in thirteen of the European nations, before thousands of people, I desire to bear it once more through the medium of the various mission organs. I KNOW THAT GOD LIVES, that He is a Personal Being, the Father of our spirits, and that He loves His children and hears and answers their righteous prayers. I know that it is His will that His children be happy. It is His desire to bless us all. I KNOW THAT JESUS CHRIST IS THE SON OF GOD, OUR ELDER BROTHER, THE VERY CREATOR AND REDEEMER OF THE WORLD. I know that God has again established His kingdom on the earth in fulfilment of prophecy and that it will never be overcome, but it shall ultimately hold universal dominion in the earth and Jesus Christ shall reign as its King forever.

I KNOW THAT GOD IN HIS GOODNESS HAS AGAIN REVEALED HIMSELF FROM THE HEAVENS AND THAT JOSEPH SMITH WAS CALLED OF GOD TO RE-ESTABLISH THAT KINGDOM. I testify that He accomplished this work, that he laid the foundations and that he committed to the Church the keys and powers to continue the great latter-day work, which he began under the direction of Almighty God.

I know that Joseph Smith, although slain as a martyr to the Truth, still lives and that as head of this dispensation—the greatest of all dispensations—he will continue so to stand throughout the eternities to come. He is a prophet of God, a seer and a revelator, as are his successors. I KNOW THAT THE INSPIRATION OF THE LORD IS DIRECTING THE CHURCH TODAY BECAUSE I HAVE FELT OF ITS POWER. I know that the First Presidency and other General Authorities of the Church have as their object and purpose the glory of God and the exaltation of His children. And finally, I know that no person who does not receive this work can be saved in the Celestial Kingdom of God and escape the condemnation of the Judge of us all.

Humbly and prayerfully I leave this testimony, knowing full well I must eventually meet my Maker and stand with all men before the judgment bar of God. More than anything else in all the world, I am grateful for this testimony of the divinity of this great latter-day work and exhort all men everywhere to give heed thereto.

And now a fond farewell and God bless you!

Faithfully and affectionately
Your brother,
EZRA TAFT BENSON.

For yesterday is but a memory and
tomorrow is only a vision.
But today well lived makes every
yesterday a beautiful memory and
Every tomorrow a vision of hope.

TIME! — THE PERIOD BETWEEN TWO OPPORTUNITIES

By F. SMITH

TRAVELLING northwards recently by train I was fortunate enough to find a compartment with only two other passengers—a Scots lady and a sallow-faced gentleman from Lancashire.

All three of us were strangers and had never met before. In the typical British style we retired into our odd corners of the compartment and also retired into our shells. The first two hours of the journey were passed in stony silence, except for an occasional polite request for the time, after which everyone immediately retired shellwards again.

After this first two hours the Scots lady produced a bar of milk chocolate and generously handed it round to the other two of us. In a few more minutes the sallow-faced gentleman also produced milk chocolate, which he followed by apples, followed by offers of hot tea from two flasks . Within half an hour we felt as if we had known each other for a long time.

Unfortunately, the time had come to part company, and without further chance to get acquainted the lady bade us a warm "goodbye" and changed trains. The train filed up with seaside trippers, and that was that.

For the rest of the journey I had time for reflection. Our life is very much like a train journey, and some of us go through life without doing a thing other than those occasionally asked of us. Sometimes, when we are getting to the tail-end of the journey we discover that there are many things which count which are not written in any book.

Remorse often comes in the eve of life when one becomes aware of the things which could have been done—things which were worthwhile and lasting—things which were placed on one side for things of a more trivial nature, while weightier matters and points of an eternal nature passed by unnoticed.

If we maintain a steady outlook, put the Gospel's stamp on everything we do, if we can make decisions which will fit into the picture of our eternal existence without marring the landscape, if we can get this balance at an early age, then our life will be full and complete and we shall have no regrets when the train journey comes to an end.

Remember the words of Alma:

> "For behold this life is the time for men to prepare to meet God; yea, behold the day of this life is the day for men to perform their labours.
>
> . . . I beseech you that ye do not procrastinate the day of your repentance until the end; for after this day of life, **which is given unto us to prepare for eternity,** behold, if we do not improve our time in this life, then cometh the night of darkness wherein there can be no labour performed."

Begin early to serve the Lord. Learn to weigh carefully in the light of eternal values all matters that take your time.

A man who has a great objective has no time to listen to the howling of dogs.

IMPRESSIONS OF A VISIT TO TEMPLE BLOCK

THE following letter was written by Louise, the daughter of Senator Charles W. Tobey:

Dear Mother and Father,

This is a beautiful city, such an impressive entrance to it last night, after a spectacular ride beginning the moment we hit the Utah State border line to Salt Lake, entering the city just before sunset. The beautiful city lay below us. I could not help but sing to Sterling at that moment, "Depuis-Le-Jour" from the opera; Louise, that beautiful Aria. Louise is singing to Julien as they both stand together overlooking the beautiful city of Paris by moonlight. If only an orchestral accompaniment had aided me. It has long been one of my dreams to sing "Depuis-Le-Jour" in the right setting. There was the setting before me. Sterling loved it and we both have the memory of Salt Lake City to take away with us.

We had a full and memorable day yesterday. Attended organ recital at the Mormon Tabernacle across the street from this hotel. Afterwards we joined a group being conducted by a guide, who gave a short lecture tour. Very informative regarding points of interest on Mormon grounds, and regarding the religion. We could ask any question we wished, and received a full reply. After hearing about their religion, my estimation of the Mormons leaped to the highest peak. No high pressure salesmanship behind it. No officials on pedestals. It all was simply and purely the Christian Religion. No staginess, no eeriness. nothing hidden or secretive, nothing boastful, there are no paid clergymen. Boys as young as, I think, eighteen can be priests or ministers.

Much is done in their everyday life. The lecturer himself was a priest, who, as a layman, is in radio work. Education in all lines is a vital part of their programme.

A Mormon takes no stimulants such as alcohol or tobacco, because health is priceless and worthy of any sacrifice, to be maintained.

After hearing this young man talk in a conversational way about all this, I felt more secure in America, even though they are a minority group, and truly Christian.

ONE OF HIS NOBLEMEN • By NORMAN DUNN

WHEN the last load has been harvested from the fields and the workers' records are examined, the Master will take into account not only the amount accomplished, but also the quality of the equipment.

Judged by such a criterion, Elder Hubert John Hill, of Birmingham, will excel. Born April 30th, 1860, into a poor country home where the counties of Gloucester and Worcester meet, he was one of many to whom schooling was almost entirely denied. After two years of it, he began work at bird-scaring and the other usual tasks assigned to young "sons of the soil" Ill-clad, and fed only on the plainest fare, his body became hardened to long working hours on the field, or as a teamster on the road. Today his ears show signs of frost-bite and his hands the honourable marks of heavy toil.

In spite of his years, Brother Hill's allotment still sets a pattern of good tillage, and his advice and active aid are frequently sought by other gardeners.

At the age of 23 he maried a Latter-day Saint girl. A family was reared on his meagre wages of twelve to fifteen shillings per week, augmented by gifts of food from employers and by the produce of his own gardens. Under the yearly contract system, prevalent until recently on many English farms, the family moved from place to place in the three counties of Hereford, Worcester, and Gloucester. Masters varied from good to bad, from tyrannical to charitable.

It was August 21st, 1891, that Brother Hill entered the waters of baptism, being baptized by Elder W. B. Card; from that time forth he has been an ardent worker in the Church. Whenever missionaries were in his vicinity their meetings were advertised wholeheartedly by him. He recounts instances of opposition from intolerant farmers, vicars, and others, recalling

Hubert John Hill

the arguments he used as he pleaded for freedom of worship.

Ordained an Elder December 14th, 1898, by Elder J. E. Williams, our old friend conscientiously paid tithe, proselyted, canvassed for meeting places, risked evictions and loss of jobs by having cottage meetings in his home, honoured the Sabbath and distributed Church literature. Nowadays, as then, his burning testimony of the true Gospel impels him to proclaim it. The writer knows of no member more zealously active than he, according to his years. Limited powers of expression and ungrammatical "countrified" speech are entirely outweighed by his desire to do the will of the Lord. Before such a pattern, one stands humbly admiring. Sister Hill, an invalid for years, has passed on. Some years ago a serious illness threatened Brother Hill's life, but the Lord regarded administration and prayer on his behalf, and his life was extended.

Who is entitled to say that the Lord does not honour such workers and count them among "His Noblemen"? May we all use just as zealously as Brother Hill the "equipment" with which we have been endowed.

FORMER BRITISHER ENDS ACTIVE LIFE

WE bring to your notice this month news of the death of a member of the Kolob Stake who was formerly of Manchester. His name is Brother William Wainwright, patriarch, who died at Springville, 28th October, 1946, at the age of 71.

Brother Wainwright left England as a convert in 1904, with his wife and three children, first residing in Salt Lake City, then moving over to Springville, home of our Mission President, Selvoy J. Boyer.

Having learned the bakery business in England, Brother Wainwright opened bakery establishments in Spanish Fork and Richfield, and was owner and manager of a bakery business when he died.

Prominent in working for the Church, he was Bishop of the Second Ward of Kolob Stake from 1925 to 1930, and was in the High Council of this Stake for 15 years. He was a talented musician and was stake musical chairman for several years. He also served a short term mission in the North Western States of America, served in the Sunday School and Priesthood Presidencies, and had been a teacher in almost every auxiliary organization in the Church.

This splendid example of Church activity brings home to us the fact that even though we may be one of a large group of Saints in a branch, district, ward or stake, there is plenty to do. The tendency arises sometimes, where there are large groups, for some of the people to sit back or think that there are so many other people probably better than they. No matter how big the group, there is plenty of work for every one. Growth and development, fundamental for our salvation, need not be for the few. Active participation must, however, be sought after and to be rightly appreciated must first be won.

If the whole world were converted tomorrow there would be work for everyone, for we would still have to go on to perfection teaching one another. Wherever we go, let us maintain the standard of the example quoted above, so that the mission of Christ will not have been in vain and so that the missionary who brought us the Gospel may feel his sacrifice justified.

BRITISH MISSIONARY RE-UNION

APPROXIMATELY 400 people attended the British Missionary Re-Union held in Lincoln Ward Chapel, October 5th. Former British Missionary John W. Boud, and Sister R. Wallace, formerly of London Branch, were in charge of the arrangements.

In the amusement hall, Bob Carlton's Dance Band furnished fitting music, splendid entertainment, several vocal solos were given by Arthur Butler, who recently left England to attend the Brigham Young University; and by Douglas Brammer, rendering two "Young Albert's." Former mission president Hugh B. Brown was unable to attend because of sickness.

EDITO

DECEMBER

IN the districts and branches of the British Mission I congratulate the achievements and fine spirit which is found among the tireless workers. Many have carried great responsibility during the past years. Some have had to shoulder more than one position in various organisations and branches.

As Leaders, in your planning of the work for the coming months ahead in all the auxiliary organisations, it is your responsibility to look afield and spread out the responsibilities to each member of your branches. No greater joy can come to an officer than to watch individuals grow in faith and strength, and take a firm grip upon the "iron rod of eternal life and knowledge" which will eventually lead him or her back into the presence of their eternal Father.

There is no greater work in the world today than the opportunity we give each member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, to develop and cultivate individual talents while working in one of the organisations of this great world-wide Church. As leaders, yours is the untiring opportunity today to interest new members and those who have not had opportunity to work and give them such an opportunity to express themselves through activity.

You should, in all of your desires for officers and teachers, look beyond your own household. Many are desiring an opportunity to try their abilities and grow.

The Saviour, the Author of our being, the Creator of Heaven and Earth, the Son of God, "gave some apostles, and some prophets, and some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers for the perfecting of the Saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." (Eph. 4: 11) There is only one way for this Church to grow and that is through personal activity.. I encourage you to be the instrument in this Church to give that opportunity.

There is a fundamental principal in rearing a child and that is applicable here. Never do for the child what the child can do for himself. You would, as a parent, rob him of an opportunity to develop. Give your members the opportunity to grow and receive the joyful feeling which comes through that growth.

We never lose our testimony through activity. It always comes by a slow leak of inactivity either brought on by ourselves or by an officer who does not call upon us.

S. J. B.

Brigham Young University Scholarship

THE following is an extract from a letter written by President Howard McDonald of the Brigham Young University: we feel sure it will answer the many questions asked on this matter:

"We recommend that a scholarship covering one full year's tuition be awarded to one student of each of the missions of Europe. Our present interpretation of one year's tuition is $70.00 (£17). This does not include our student body fee or health fee, which would have to be made up by the student body itself (which is approx. $100.00 (£25) a year and books approx. $15.00 (£4) a year) and is more appropriately paid by the student who received the scholarship. There are, however, special problems involved with foreign scholarships; first, the problem of a reasonable command of the English language. The University is not ideally the place for people to come who cannot speak English. The second problem is one of general academic qualifications.

We recommend that the following provision be understood; that the Mission President shall recommend to the University any student who is able to speak the English language well and who has an academic background of high achievement. The University will, in turn, select one student from each mission. The student should be selected on the basis of this transcript of credits submitted by the Mission President, his character, and potential leadership capacity."

World Church News

PRESIDENT McKAY GAINING RAPIDLY—President David O. McKay is recovering rapidly and satisfactorily in the Latter-day Saint Hospital in Salt Lake from an operation he underwent on Friday, October 18th, 1946. From the very first day his condition was reported as good, and he has since made excellent progress.

MEDICAL AND SOCIAL SERVICE —Creation of a new enlarged department which combines both the Church Medical Department and the Relief Society Social Service and Child Welfare Departments, and the appointment of Mrs. Marie H. Tanner as its director has been announced.

GERMAN MISSION HEAD NAMED For the first time in more than seven years the West German Mission will have a president from Zion. He is Bishop Jean Wunderlich of California. Bishop Wunderlich will succeed Max Zimmer, Snr., who is acting mission president. President Douglas Wood left there in 1939 at the outbreak of war.

MORE AMBASSADORS OF TRUTH —223 missionaries are receiving final instructions in the mission home in Salt Lake City. This record class has 115 ex-servicemen, 78 young women, 6 couples, and the remainder older men and women. When they get out into the mission field they will bring the number of missionaries serving to an all-time record, 2,529. Expected total by end of the year is 3,000.

MISSIONARY PASSES — Elder Gerrit Arir Jongejan of Salt Lake City, died while on a mission in Holland. Born July 27th, 1876 in Leeuwarden, Friesland, Holland, Elder Jongejan was engaged in preaching the gospel in his native land when death came to him.

BRITISHER HONOURED — The painting of President Belle S. Spafford of the Relief Society was recently unveiled and hung in the General Board room in the Bishop's Building in Salt Lake City. The portrait of Sister Spafford is the work of Alvin Gittins, who is a very popular young artist. and who recently left England to continue his studies at the Brigham Young University. He has also completed portraits of President George Albert Smith, President Howard S. McDonald, Dean Gerrit de Jong, and many others.

HONOURS

"His Majesty's medal for service in the cause of freedom" has been presented by King George VI. to Mrs. Burton W. Musser of Salt Lake City. She was war time head of the Utah's "Bundles for Britain" organization.

Four Ogden women, Mrs. S. Reed, Mrs. J. H. Rosevear. Mrs. Frederick Berrill and Miss Margaret Corless have also received the award for outstanding services rendered.

The Church in Europe

The second large shipment of Welfare supplies has now safely arrived in the American Sector of Berlin. An earlier shipment has now been cleared and distributed throughout the Russian Zone in accordance with a plan submitted by the East German Mission Headquarters. Prior to these two shipments an earlier shipment of relief supplies purchased on the open market in Switzerland were completely apportioned to those groups of Saints classified as the most critically needy.

Regarding these supplies, Elder Richard Ranglack, acting mission president of the East German Mission, has stated: "The amount and condition of the clothing and food supplies far exceeded even our fondest expectations. The generosity of the Saints in Zion is permitting us to render most valuable assistance to those in such great need. On behalf of the Saints we find it most difficult to adequately express our sincere gratitude.

"Since the arrival of these supplies we have been able to supply the most urgent needs of the Berlin area and are preparing cases for shipment to the various districts throughout the mission to meet the needs as are indicated in our survey. Those who have already received of these supplies were very pleasantly surprised at the good quality and great variety of the items received. Each has expressed his or her gratitude in no uncertain terms. We feel to say that the Church Welfare Programme is the finest plan of relief in the world today, and we acknowledge the goodness and inspirations of the Lord in having His servants institute such a programme among His people."

Through the united efforts of the local Brethren and the 45 full time missionaries serving in the Netherland Mission, the largest group ever to assemble gathered in Utrecht, Holland, November 2nd and 3rd, 1946. All the branches and districts were well represented, there being a third of the known membership of the mission in attendance; they came by bus, rail and bicycle. It is interesting to note that through the efficiently organized Church Welfare Programme of this mission, that the Saints were looking very healthy and warmly dressed. It was estimated that more than two-thirds of the congregation were wearing welfare clothing. A combined choir of 250 voices, and a singing mothers' choir of 120 voices, provided musical numbers throughout the conference. Attendance at the evening session was 1,037 persons; phonographic recordings of the selections rendered by the singing mothers and the combined choir were broadcast over the amplifying system, much to the delight of all those present.

The work of the Lord in Europe is making splendid progress, the spirit of optimism and hope are now present in all congregations of Saints, and missionaries are meeting with most gratifying success. In all of these blessings the goodness of the Lord is most evident, and members and leaders alike join in expressing their heartfelt gratification and appreciation to Him whose Church we represent.

On November 19th, 1946, President Ezra Taft Benson accompanied by the new European Mission President, Elder Alma Sonne, left England to make a brief tour of the missions on the continent. The presence of two of the General Authorities in their midst will be a soul-satisfying experience for the Saints of those war-torn countries.

BRITISH MISSION

ARRIVALS AND ASSIGNMENTS

ELDER WALLACE GRANT BENNETT arrived in the British Mission November 16th, 1946. He is a grandson of the late President Heber J. Grant. He has been assigned to labour in the London District, and will work on publicity for the Centennial celebrations.

SISTER NANCY TENNEY of Leeds has been called to serve as a missionary in the British Mission. She was assigned to labour in the Nottingham District on November 13th, 1946.

APPOINTMENTS AND RELEASES

On the 20th of October Elder Wallace Reid was appointed to succeed President George E. Gent as President of the Nottingham District.

Elder Albert E. Hopkinson was transferred from the Birmingham District to the Nottingham District on October 23rd, 1946.

Elder Edward Smith has been transferred to the Hull District from Bristol.

Elder Connel M. Whitehead was transferred on October 24th, 1946, from the Birmingham District to the Bristol District.

On the 27th of October, 1946, Elder Bruce E. Peterson was appointed, upon the release of President Stanley Short, as President of the Newcastle District.

Elder C. Eton Price was given an honorable release from the British Mission to return to the United States on November 5th, 1946.

On the 5th November, 1946, Elder R. Eyre Turner was appointed Welsh District President.

Elder Oliver J. Bennett was transferred on November 5th, 1946, from the London District to the Welsh District.

Sister Lowene Wood, on the 13th of November, was transferred from the Nottingham District back to the London District.

On November 23rd, 1946, President George Allan of the Birmingham District was honourably released from his duties, and Elder Guy L. Merkley appointed to succeed him.

DISTRICT CONFERENCES

Autumn Series

NOTTINGHAM DISTRICT

SAINTS and friends of the Nottingham District assembled in Conference October 19th and 20th, 1946, at Derby.

The Saturday session was a separate Relief Society and Priesthood meeting. Sister Gladys S. Boyer conducted the Relief, and President Selvoy J. Boyer the Priesthood. A pleasant social evening was later enjoyed by the people attending.

There were three main sessions on the Sunday, at 10.30 a.m., 2.0 p.m., and 5.0 p.m. The speakers of the day were President and Sister Boyer, Elders Wallace Reid and Albert Hopkinson, Sisters Edith M. Mullinger, Lowene Wood, Nora Reid and Betty

A. Mitchell, and the former district presidency, Brothers George E. Gent, George Winfield and Samuel Pears.

During the conference President Boyer announced the purchase by the Church of the first building and ground ever purchased in the Nottingham District, at 28, Loughborough Road, Nottingham. The site is in a very desirable position, surrounded by a lovely garden. It is to be used as headquarters for the Nottingham District, and as an assembly hall for the members of the Nottingham Branch.

An excellent spirit prevailed during the whole conference, which was greatly enhanced by the beautiful musical numbers rendered.

NEWCASTLE DISTRICT

The Newcastle District Conference was held October 26th and 27th, 1946, in the West Hartlepool Branch Chapel. On the Saturday, Priesthood and Relief Society meetings were held under the direction of President and Sister Boyer.

A well-arranged programme, under the direction of Brother and Sister G. Wappett, entertained the Saints and friends in the evening.

On Sunday, sessions at 11.0 a.m., 2.30 and 6.0 p.m., were well attended. In the morning session children featured chorus work, and a play entitled "Love's Vision," by Elder F. W. Oates, was well presented by the West Hartlepool Boy Scouts. Speakers throughout the day were of the retiring district presidency, Elders Stanley Short and Frederick Oates, travelling missionaries Bruce E. Peterson, Floyd O. Christensen, Kenneth M. Oswald, President and Sister Boyer. Musical selections were sweetly rendered and a thoroughly enjoyable time was had by all.

LIVERPOOL DISTRICT

The Liverpool District Conference convened in Wigan, November 2nd and 3rd, 1946. President Selvoy J. Boyer presided at a combined Priesthood and Relief Society meeting held on the Saturday. A nice social evening followed.

Sessions on Sunday were at 10.30 a.m. and 1.30 and 5.30 p.m. The morning session featured children from each branch in song and speech. A Priesthood Pageant was beautifully presented by the members of the Liverpool Branch. In the afternoon and evening sessions, local Saints, travelling missionaries and President and Sister Boyer were the speakers. Substantial refreshments were served throughout the conference by the Relief Society Sisters under the direction of Sister Lavinia Webster.

LEEDS DISTRICT

The Leeds District Conference, held November 9th and 10th, 1946, was presided over by President Selvoy J. Boyer. A Grand Variety Concert was enjoyed immensely by the Saturday evening group.

Sunday services were held at 11.0 a.m., 2.30 and 5.30 p.m. The theme throughout the conference was "Truth about Mormonism," with a pageant, "The Restoration," being given to make it more impressive. Speakers included Saints, missionaries, and President and Sister Boyer, with the speeches interspersed with musical numbers beautifully rendered. A wonderful spirit was enjoyed by everyone.

LONDON DISTRICT

The London District Conference was held in Ravenslea Chapel on Sunday, November 17th, 1946. The principle speakers at the morning session were Elder Ezra Taft Benson of the Council of Twelve and President of the European Mission, Elder and Sister Alma Sonne, and President Boyer. At the afternoon and evening sessions, President and Sister Boyer, travelling elders, and local brothers and sisters were the speakers. Musical items were rendered by the London and St. Albans choirs, with vocal solos and a trio. The conference was greatly enjoyed by all present.

DISTRICT ACTIVITES

BRANCHES RE-OPENED

The North London Branch was re-opened on Sunday, November 10th, 1946.

The Carlisle Branch in the Newcastle District was re-opened November 3rd, 1946, and the Gateshead Branch, in the same district, November 17th, 1946.

The Edinburgh Branch, Scottish District, was again opened October 13th, 1946.

LIVERPOOL DISTRICT—The M.I.A. season was commenced in the Burnley Branch with a grand opening Social and Dance on September 21st, 1946. 80 members and friends where delightfully entertained.

LONDON DISTRICT — At a baptismal service held in Ravenslea October 27th, 1946, the following children were baptised and confirmed: Cynthia Ann Hoyle, baptized by Elder Herbert George Bickerstaff and confirmed by Elder Horace E. Heyes; Ruby Mizpah Smith, baptized by Elder Herbert Stephen Millard and confirmed by Elder William Robert Callister; Miriam Rosalind Millard, baptized by Elder Millard and confirmed by Elder Oliver Jones Bennett; David Bernard Pool, baptized and confirmed by Elder William Harper Stoneman.

The M.I.A. winter season was opened on the 14th September with one of the best entertainments the London Branch has ever seen, entitled "Curtains Up—We're Off." The show was fast moving with a variety of fun and serious entertainment. It was repeated the following Saturday. Great credit is due to a large number of people who were responsible for this very high standard of entertainment.

LEEDS DISTRICT — The Sunday School children presented a Harvest Festival Service of Song in the Bradford Branch, October 13th. 147 souls enjoyed this very faith-promoting service.

IRISH DISTRICT—The Belfast and Dublin Branches held their Relief Society Conference on October 3rd, 1946. Both branches were re-organized.

NEWCASTLE DISTRICT — "It's great, being pioneers in Hexham." So writes Sister Ivy E. Morris as she reports the Halloween Party held there to open the M.I.A. and Primary organizations October 23rd. To the newly organized groups springing up all over the mission we wish you every success.

SCOTTISH DISTRICT — The members of the Scottish District are again in full harness. Successful socials have recently been held in Glasgow and Airdrie Branches.

PERSONALS

BIRTH

HILL—The infant son of Elder and Sister James P. Hill, born September 21st, 1946, was blessed by his father, November 3rd, and given the names Hugh John.

MARRIAGE

PARKS - GILL — At Handsworth Chapel, October 19th, 1946, Sister Mary Elizabeth Parks was married to Mr. Stanley Alfred Gill. President William St. John Yates performed the ceremoney. Elder Melvin Dunn was organist and Elder George A. Makin vocal soloist.

DEATHS

PRITCHARD — Brother John W. Pritchard, husband of Sister Ada Maud Pritchard, died September 4th, 1946, after a long and severe illness.

DRING—Sister Edith Annie Dring, daughter of Brother and Sister Orton of Hucknall Branch, passed away September 12th, 1946. She was in-

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GOOD HEALTH! WE'RE LIVING LIKE MORMONS

RECENTLY published statistics have raised one of the most astonishing health mysteries in the history of modern medicine. They show that the Mormons—whom it should be added are in these days almost entirely monogamous—enjoy better health and immunity from disease than any other community in the world. The Mormon—or Latter-day Saints—figures have been compared with the average of the six leading nations of the world, with the following result (the Mormon figures are given second):—

Diseases of the circulatory system 196, 115; kidney disease 44, 23; tuberculosis 120, 9; cancer 119, 47; diseases of the digestive system 73, 56; the death rate of Mormons is 8.1 compared with the others nations' 13.8.

KEEPING US FIT

A partial explanation, but only partial, is that Utah, where they live, has an unusually healthy climate; more pertinent is the fact that the Mormons strictly adhere to the rigid rules of hygiene laid down by one of their founders. Another point is the fact that their rules of living permit no alcohol, no tobacco or coffee, little meat, plenty of fruit and vegetables. The Mormons claim that anyone who follows their health and living rules would have as good a chance of escaping disease as they have. Certainly food conditions over here help so far as the present difficulty of obtaining spirits and cigarettes are concerned!

—Reproduced by permission from "Tit-Bits."

—continued from previous page

terred in the Red Hill Cemetery, Arnold, Notts. The service was conducted by Branch President Samuel Pears.

STEELE — On October 16th, 1946, Sister Elsie Steele, wife of President Steele of Dublin, after a long illness, borne patiently and with a sweet serenity which only her faith and spirituality could give, passed peacefully away. She was an active member until her illness confined her to her home. The burial took place in the Mount Jerome Cemetery, Dublin, on October 18th, 1946. District President Weston N. Christensen conducted the funeral service and dedicated the grave, assisted by Elder Arnold R. Rawson.

PRESIDENT SMITH

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So I stood there for fifteen or twenty minutes, and I talked to them of the blessings of God bestowed upon them, of their lives being preserved during a terrible war, and of the love of those who are here waiting for their return. I urged them to keep the commandments of God, and assured them that there was no other road to happiness but by keeping the commandments of God. I encouraged them to retain the fine records that they had already made and to come home clean and sweet to their loved ones with the favour of the Lord upon them. When I had finished they took their turn, and several of these men said, "Thank you, Brother Smith. It has been a great encouragement to us to hear a voice from the tops of the Rocky Mountains, one that some of us are familiar with, and to know that you are thinking of us and are anxious for us. We will not let you down."

I thought that was a beautiful experience, and that is just one of the many that we have. Personally, I have travelled more than a million miles in the world to divide the Gospel of Jesus Christ, but that was the first time that I ever delivered a religious address to an audience seven thousand miles away. Short-wave broadcasting will continue to improve, and it will not be long until, from this pulpit and other places that will be provided, the servants of the Lord will be able to deliver messages to isolated groups who are so far away they cannot be reached. In that way and other ways, the Gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord, the only power of God unto salvation in preparation for the celestial kingdom, will be heard in all parts of the world, and many of you who are here will live to see that day.

We are here today as a great family, waiting upon the Lord. I see people in this house who are farmers, mechanics, who are active in the various pursuits of life. I see those who represent us in Washington and at home in politics. I am glad to see here those who represent us as officers in our city. We are all sitting under the same roof, without difference, all having the same opportunity, and if we have come with the Spirit of the Lord resting upon us, each of us will be fed the bread of life, not by the individual who speaks, but by the Lord who gives voice.

I want to congratulate this fine group of singers that have sung for us so far. It is lovely to know that our sisters are so interested in the work of the Lord. I did not have the pleasure of being in this hall yesterday, but I am informed that there were as many women here in this building as there are today, or nearly so. The sisters are active. I would like to say to you husbands, fathers and brothers, these women in this Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are a great strength to the Church.

Yesterday the great national Relief Society of the Church, the first great women's organization, and the oldest one now in existence, met in conference. Their representatives were here from all parts of this country and other countries, just as anxious to be what our Heavenly Father would have them be as we who are here today.

I am lifted up in my heart today as I look into the faces of my brethren. Some of them have been in the missionary field for many, many years. They have remained away from home and reared their families. They are back to visit with us in conference and ready to go again if they may be needed. That is the spirit of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. A mission president was released and came home recently who had been away from us about ten years. He and his wife raised their three children down in the South Pacific among the descendants of Father Lehi. When he came home, he was glad to come back to this marvellous country that we live in and to

associate with his own family; and then when the matter of going into the mission field was talked about briefly, he was ready to turn around and go right back.

That is the spirit of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to labour without a salary, to labour without the comforts that we sometimes have at home, but to labour for the salvation of the human family, to bring our Father's other children to a knowledge of the Truth. The great reward that missionaries expect as the result of these years of service is to have the companionship of these men and women that they have brought into the Church in the world, the companionship of their own families that they love, right here upon this earth throughout the ages of eternity. I would like to say to you mission presidents that you are doing a wonderful work. The Lord has blessed you and magnified you, and the work of this Church has only just begun. All of us may have to go again and again into the mission field, but it is the one way that we can lay up treasure in heaven and be sure that they will await us when we go to the other side.

May the Lord add His blessing. May we so live that every day of our lives the world will be better for our having lived in it. May we so live that our neighbours and friends will be constrained to seek after the wisdom of our Heavenly Father and His righteous purposes and thereby gain happiness, not only here but hereafter.

I pray that in our hearts and in our homes there may abide that spirit of love, of patience, of kindness, of charity, of helpfulness that enriches our lives and that makes the world brighter and better because of it.

I pray that we may continue to rejoice together under the influence of the Lord here until the end of the conference, and when the time comes that we may go to our homes renewed in our determination to keep the commandments of the Lord, that our happiness may be perfected as a result of our righteousness. If we will do that, then our visit here will not have been in vain. On the contrary, it will be a tremendous blessing to us.

I pray that the Lord will bless you in your hearts and in your homes. I pray that those of our people who are isolated in distant lands, far from the organized wards and branches of the Church, many of them almost alone in great communities. I pray that the Lord will bless them and that they may feel today the influence that we enjoy here, and in the due time of our Heavenly Father that they may be permitted to "come out of her," as the Lord indicated His people should do prior to the winding up scene when this earth will be cleansed and purified by fire, when all mortality will be taken away and only those who are prepared to dwell in the celestial kingdom under the guidance of our Heavenly Father, under the leadership of our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, will be here, I pray that they and we and all the men and women of the world who have a desire to live righteously and are keeping the commandments of God may be among that number.

I pray that our homes may be sanctified by the righteousness of our lives, that the adversary may have no power to come there and destroy the children or our homes or those who dwell under our roofs. If we will honour God and keep His commandments, our homes will be sacred, and the adversary will have no influence, and we will live in happiness and peace until the winding up scene in mortality and we go to receive our reward in immortality.

God bless you, peace be with you, joy and satisfaction abide with you all, henceforth and forever, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

PRESIDENT CLARK

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of thousands of civilian population with the atom bomb in Japan, few, if any, of the ordinary civilians being any more responsible for the war than were we, and perhaps most of them no more aiding Japan in the war than we were aiding America. **MILITARY MEN ARE NOW SAYING THAT THE ATOM BOMB WAS A MISTAKE. IT WAS MORE THAN A MISTAKE, IT WAS A WORLD TRAGEDY.** Thus we have lost all that we gained during the years from Grotius (1625) to 1912. And the worst of this Atomic Bomb tragedy is not that not only did the people of the United States not rise up in protest against this savagery, not only did it not shock us to read of this wholesale destruction of men, women, and children, and cripples, but it actually drew from the nation at large a general approval of this fiendish butchery.

The other day there appeared in "The New York Times," it may have appeared here, too, but I have it from "The New York Times," an article which I shall read to you.

> "A new super-deadly poison, the most potent known to man, has been developed by the special projects division of the United States Chemical Warfare Service." (That is, it is officially developed.)
>
> "An innocent-looking crystalline toxin, the poison is so powerful that an inch-cube size of it, roughly an ounce, could kill every person living in the United States and Canada, silently and swiftly.
>
> " 'If World War III comes, which we pray will never happen, it will be a war in which most people may die from silent, insidious, anti-human weapons that make no sound, give no warning, destroy no forts or ships or cities, but can wipe out human beings by the millions.' . . .
>
> " 'If any small nation is competent in biological warfare, a large nation, even with atomic bombs, may be helpless against it.' . . ."

If we are to avoid extermination, if the world is not to be wiped out, we must find some way to curb the fiendish ingenuity of men who have apparently no fear of God, man, or the devil, and who are willing to plot and plan and invent instrumentalities that will wipe out all the flesh of the earth. And, as one American citizen of 130 millions, as one in one billion population of the world, I protest with all of the energy I possess against this fiendish activity, and as an American citizen, I call upon our government and its agencies to see that these unholy experimentations are stopped, and that somehow we get into the minds of our war-minded general staff and its satellites, and into the general staffs of the world, a proper respect for human life.

May God give us the strength to stand in these times of stress and trial and crisis. May He give us the wisdom and the inspiration to put hate out of our hearts, a hate that is consuming them. May He give us the power as a people so to bring our influence to bear that men, mankind, may be saved, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

PRESIDENT McKAY

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plane disaster shocks us to attention, awakens sympathy and a demand for more safeguards, while to the hundreds of trains and aeroplanes carrying millions to safety, we give scarcely a passing thought.

So while we solicitously call attention to the tragedies in the stream of human life, let us not be unmindful of the much greater group who move steadily and successfully along, avoiding the sandbars and rapids of sinful indulgence and spiritual decay, whose noble lives confirm and increase confidence in the growing generation. As we seek the lost sheep, let us be appreciative of the "ninety and nine" that are safe in the fold.

But no matter how firm our confidence in the majority of the young, we must not close our eyes to the fact that the number of delinquents and youthful criminals is increasing. In the interest of the moral atmosphere of our communities, the welfare of the state, the perpetuity of our democratic form of government, we must search for the causes of this upswing in crime, and, if possible, remove them and apply the proper remedies.

THE HOME THE FIRST SAFEGUARD

One cause of the increase in child delinquency is a let down in home ideals.

The exigencies of war induced many mothers to take up war work, and to leave their children in the care of others, or, too often, to let them shift for themselves. A growing desire for economic independence, or a too eager willingness to improve financial circumstances, has influenced some mothers to neglect the greatest of all responsibilities—the rearing of a family. The national director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation makes the definite statement that "in the background of these youthful offenders lies the story of shocking neglect. Boys and girls are being deprived of the care and guidance necessary to the proper foundation of their characters. Their lawlessness had its roots in every instance in broken homes, in homes where mothers and fathers, because of their neglect, misunderstanding, or irresponsibility, had failed in their primary obligation. More often than not, God was unknown, or more important, was unwelcome in their homes."

"On the other hand, in nearly every instance the youthful offender would have been a strong, upright citizen had he been given a chance. If his pent-up energies and desires had been directed along wholesome channels; if his problems—the problems that made him a problem child—had been solved by patient and attentive parents, he would have proved to be an influence for good in his community."

You may think me extreme, but I am going to say that a married woman who refuses to assume the responsibilities of motherhood, or who, having children, neglects them for pleasure or social prestige, is recreant to the highest calling and privilege of womankind. The father, who because of business or political or social responsibilities fails to share with his wife the responsibilities of rearing his sons and daughters, is untrue to his marital obligations, is a negative element in what might be and should be a joyous home atmosphere, and is a possible contributor to discord and delinquency. A President of the United States once said: "Our country has a vast majority of competent mothers. I am not so sure of the majority of competent fathers!" Fathers may and should exercise a helpful, restraining influence, where a mother's tenderness and love might lead to indulgence on the part of the children. In this respect, however, every father should ever keep in mind that he was once a mischievous youngster himself, and deal with his boy sympathetically.

The home is the best place in the world to teach the highest ideal in the social and political life of man; namely, perfect liberty of action so long as you do not trespass upon the rights and privileges of another.

The great need in the home today is more religion. Parents should make it obvious both by their actions and their conversation that they are seriously interested if not in outward forms in the fruits of true religion. Example of parents should emphasize the need of honesty in our dealings with our family, our neighbours, and all with whom we come in contact; of kindness to our employees, of fair play to our employers, or good measure to our customers. "Talk about these intangibles should become as common place in our homes and offices as talk about golf, parties, and profits, if we want to succeed in solving the family problem."

The Lord places the responsibility directly where it belongs, wherein He says, that it is the duty of parents to teach their children the principles of the Gospel and to walk uprightly before the Lord, and if they do not so teach, the sin be upon the heads of the parents.

THE CHURCH

Next to the home as a safeguard to delinquency, the Church should be a dominant force in reducing delinquency. In the Church of Jesus Christ every child should be more or less safeguarded; first, by the Ward Teacher, whose duty it is to "watch over the Church always (the "Church" meaning members), to be with and to strengthen them." Today the perfunctory obligations of the Ward Teachers are fairly well performed, but the looking after individuals is woefully neglected. If every teacher, as an appointed representative of the bishopric of his ward, were properly and fully to perform his duty, he would be aware of the activity or inactivity of every child, and of every youth, in the Church, each teacher watching over the assigned families.

In more direct contact with individuals are the quorum officers and instructors. It is the duty of these officers and instructors to know the status of every youth from twelve years to twenty, and to take personal interest in each. I pause to let you comprehend the significane of this divine organisation.

A third dominant force are the auxiliary associations, comprehending in their enrollment every child and youth from six years of age and upward.

Indifference manifest in the world generally towards church should tend only to spur men of the Priesthood and teachers in the auxiliaries in the Church of Christ to more earnest and diligent activity.

THE SCHOOLS

If the reports be true with reference to the indiffernce of the country as a whole toward Christian churches, we shall have to place next to the home not the church, but the public school, as the most influential factor in lessening delinquency.

Present-day conditions emphasize the fact (and I believe it with all my heart) that the most paramount objective of the public school system from Kindergarten to the University should be character building; the evolving of true, loyal citizens of the country. The teaching of the three "R's," of the arts, and the sciences, even the delving into research work, should be but a means to the development of true manhood and noble womanhood. Education for loyal citizenship! Ralph Waldo Emerson (sometimes referred to as the wisest American) truly said: "Character is higher than intellect; a great soul will be fit to live as well as to think."

A few years ago inquiry made into the school status of juvenile delinquents in one of our Utah school districts, revealed the fact that 81 per cent of the offences were found committed by 5 per cent of school pupils. A committee appointed to deal with

this situation made the following report:

1.—Since the school offers one of the best resources in the country to prevent and treat delinquency, every effort should be made by both school and court to help the delinquent make a satisfactory school adjustment. In order to accomplish this result, cases which come to the court should be immediately referred to the school co-ordinator or attendance department of the school district in which the juvenile resides in order to determine whether or not the delinquent has a satisfactory school or work record. If he has not, the court and schools should not cease their effort until the delinquent is either in school full time on a satisfactory programme, or is employed and under proper supervision

2.—That immediately after the Juvenile Court has disposed of a case, the school co-ordinator should be notified of the disposition made.

3.—That the Industrial School notify the proper school authority when it releases a boy or girl to his or her own home.

THE COMMUNITY ATMOSPHERE

A fourth and final safeguard against delinquency of youth is the moral atmosphere of the town or community. This is determined by the ideals and actions of adults, and particularly of civic officers and those who are entrusted to enforce the law. The following from one of America's leading columnists (Miss Dorothy Thompson) referring to the "pervasive example of the behaviour of adult civilization," is pertinent:

> **"As long as we publicize and condone violence; reward profiteering; intensify civil strife; glorify personalities with the sexual morals of rabbits; teach in our high schools and colleges a cheap relativism which denies personal responsibility and places all our sins upon the 'economic system' or 'infantile conditioning,' so long will we have juvenile criminals. Our children are reflections of ourselves, or of the things in our communal life that we tolerate. England, now, is making special films to be shown in special theatres for teen-agers—films which are partly educational and partly pure entertainment, made by first-rate artists, and frankly designed to magnify and make attractive virtue." The writer then quotes Thomas Jefferson who "did not believe that you can get a good society except through good, honest, well-mannered, considerate, law-abiding, clean-living citizens. He thought, in fact, that if education concentrated in the first line of creating these, society and the state would take care of themselves."**

Yes, we are living in perilous times, but let us hope that they may be to the present generation as the fiery furnace that consumes the dross but purifies the gold. "A clean man is a national asset. A pure woman is the incarnation of true national glory. A citizen who loves justice and hates evil is better than a battleship. The strength of any community consists of and exists in the men who are pure, clean, upright and straightforward, ready for the right and sensitive to every approach of evil. Let such ideals be the standard of citizenship." They are fundamentals in the Church of Jesus Christ.

God bless the workers in the priesthood and auxiliary organizations that they may search out the young, be constant in season and out of season, guarding well those boys and girls who are not bad but who lack proper guarding. Victor Hugo was not far from the truth when he said: "There are no bad boys and there are no bad men; there are only bad cultivators."

God give us power to be good cultivators of youth, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Great Refusal

EDUCATION AND LIFE—No. 6

By
Dr. Franklin L. West

A RICH young man, faithful in keeping God's commandments, came to Jesus and said, "What good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?" And Jesus, among other things, said, "If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasures in heaven: and come and follow me. But when he heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions." (Matthew 19: 16, 20-22)

So filled with seeking riches was this young man that his vision had become blurred to the value of those eternal riches which come through working with God for the good of fellowmen. He refused to make his wealth secondary, for he was unable to see that the things which have to do with the spirit of man are of first importance.

On another occasion Jesus admonished His listeners, saying to them, "For what will it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" (Mark 8: 36) Now material possessions have value. Wealth is good, but in moderation. The bare necessities of life, food, clothing, and shelter, must be provided and some time made available for enjoying things of the intellect and the spirit if a balance to good living is to be achieved.

EVIL IN EXTREME POVERTY

There is evil in extreme poverty, just as there is evil in lavish wealth. People too destitute, lacking the barest necessities of life, particularly when this lack is beyond their full control, find it difficult to believe in the goodness of God and are not receptive to high moral and spiritual values. It is a fact that the crime centres of cities are in the areas of the underprivileged where youth are driven to petty thievery and where poverty is prevalent. The children in families of moderate means, who earn a living as they go along, learn the value of money and are able to appreciate it and spend it wisely. Raising the whole standard of living for people everywhere is a worthy goal because most people do not have enough.

Jesus knew poverty existed among the people of His own country. Out of His kindness and consideration for others He could not condemn that which would improve their physical comforts. It might seem He was condemning riches and glorifying poverty in the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, for, as the story goes, the beggar sat day after day at the door of the rich man, who ignored his condition and did nothing to help him. The beggar, after death, was found enjoying the rewards in heaven and the rich man was in anguish consigned to hell. But it was not a matter of the man's accumulated wealth, nor the poverty of the beggar, which determined the reward or the punishment. Rather is was the attitude of the rich man who permitted this beggar to remain at his door without offering him assistance. Jesus taught that one of the fundamental requirements for entrance into the Kingdom of God was to give drink to the thirsty, food to the hungry, and clothing to the naked. (Matthew 25: 35-39)

WEALTH TO BE USED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE NEEDY

We are all familiar with the story of the man who was beaten, robbed, and left for dead by the roadside and of the good Samaritan who bound up his wounds, put the afflicted man on his horse and took him to the nearest inn where he paid his expenses and left word with the innkeeper that more money would be provided if it were needed. Obviously, many of us cannot give to the poor, or assume the financial obligations of those who are in distress, unless we have something

with which to pay these bills. This suggests that it is highly desirable to create and acquire wealth, provided it is used for the benefit of those who are in need rather than as a means for self-indulgence and vain display.

Jesus could not have wholly condemned wealth for many of His friends were in that class. You recall there was Mary, the lady who anointed His head with very precious perfume from an alabaster box; and Zebedee, the father of two of the fishermen who became apostles, had a fishing business which required the employment of others besides his sons; Zacchaeus, and Matthew, the publican, were both known to have been men of modest, not mean, circumstances; and Joseph, of Arimathaea, provided a tomb in which Jesus' body was placed when taken from the cross.

For many people there is pleasure simply in making money. As a matter of fact, one rich man, who had spent little or no time with his family or in teaching his boys how to either make a living, or to preserve and wisely spend what they had, said, just before he died, he hoped his family would have as much fun spending what they would inherit as he had had in producing it. But deprived of the father's guidance, the money they inherited caused discord among that family and nearly ruined some of the children.

PLEASURE IN MERE OWNERSHIP

There is pleasure in mere ownership. To possess stocks and bonds and real estate must produce some satisfaction. Practically everyone would like to own his own home, and this is a laudable ambition. The difficulty is that too many people become so thoroughly absorbed in the making of money and driven by avarice and greed, they refuse to make creature comforts and materials second to those eternal riches of friendship and love and service.

Then there are to be found those—and they are not a few—who seldom consider the ones who have less than they, but who are envious and jealous of those who are better off, financially. Remember, one of the basic moral laws is that "thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, . . . thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbours." (Exodus 20: 17) A man once came to Jesus saying, ". . . Master, speak to my brother, that he divide the inheritance with me. And he said unto him, Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you? And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth." (Luke 12: 13-15) Following this He told them a story of a rich man who built larger barns, filled them full of the fruits of his labours, and said, "And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou has provided? So is he that layeth up treasures for himself, and is not rich toward God." (Luke 12: 19-22)

SELF-PRESERVATION, FIRST LAW

But while great wealth in the hands of some may be an evil, even so people of moderate means often wear out, in early life, through overwork, in their attempt to accumulate just a moderate fortune. It has been said, and rightly so, that self-preservation is the first law of nature, and the preservation of life depends on a certain amount of material wealth. But people, generally, spend more time, and thought, and energy on the making of a living than on everything else. We fill our lives so full here, that there is no room left for the larger, more important values to gain entrance; values such as joy of service, and friends, love and sympathy. The inn at Bethlehem was so crowded when Mary and Joseph asked for lodging that Jesus was not born there but in a stable. Similarly we crowd our lives so completely, overemphasizing material wealth and vain display, we leave no room for Christ to enter.

Jesus understood how riches may force other more highly prized values out of one's life. He told the story of the sower who went forth to sow his seed, saying, "And some seed fell among the thorns; and the thorns sprang up, and choked them." In the interpretation of this parable, He said, "He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the words; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful." (Matthew 13: 7, 22)

To secure wealth in moderation is not prohibited by the teachings of Jesus. Although by some He is considered to be theoretical and idealistic, yet the fact is His teachings are of great practical value and individuals and business concerns do not survive except His methods be adopted. He said at one time, "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth." (Matthew 5: 5) I am thinking, now, about literally inheriting the earth, absurd as this may seem to many of you. In contrast to those who are arrogant and conceited, who know it all, the meek are those who are open-minded and anxious to learn. They discover the physical laws of nature, and profit through obedience to these laws and direct power for driving machinery. They learn moral and economic law, and sound business practices, and through obedience to these amass a competence. Jesus instructed His followers not to be negative and lazy, but to be aggressive. ". . . seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." (Matthew 7: 7) He told the parable of the talents and of the pounds. The talent and the pound represented money values, and the man who did not invest his one talent, or unit of money, but hid it,, soon lost it and was condemned. The other one, in contrast, invested his five talents, made an additional five, and was lavishly praised by the Master.

WEIGHTIER THINGS CROWDED OUT

The rich young ruler, genuinely virtuous, put his material wealth above the riches of the spirit and refused to give it up to follow Jesus. There are many of us today who permit the business of living and the deceitfulness of riches to crowd out the weightier things of life. When we give, it is too often for recognition, and we fail to obtain eternal riches.

For example, some of the returning veterans, given a chance to obtain an education at government expense, are refusing the opportunity, so impatient are they to find work and to commence acquiring means. There are well-to-do men so wrapped up in their business and so absorbed in their possessions, they will not take time to serve in the Church, or lead out in welfare work.

Occasionally men of broad training and business ability refuse to hold public office because they say they don't have time and it interferes with their private affairs. Crowded out are the more important aspects of their lives by possessions which cannot be taken with them into eternity.

There are intellectual snobs who pride themselves in their learning, hoard it, and refuse to obtain the satisfaction that comes from giving themselves and their talents for the good of others. They forget that through great service may come a sympathy, a capacity for love, a kindness of heart, a gentleness of manner and the friendship and love of God.

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth no rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. . . . No man can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and Mammon." (Matthew 6: 19, 20, 21, 24)

Poetry . . .

A MOTHER'S PRAYER

By Elsie Scott
Preston Branch

O will you help me, Lord, to do the right,
For these most precious souls you gave to me,
I have no wealth to give, no power or might,
Only a Mother's heart, that cries to Thee.

O will you help me, Lord, to teach them how to pray.
To show them you are listening to everything they say,
I've no fine words of praise to offer, Lord, to you—
Accept a Mother's lips, that pray Thy will to do!

No noble deeds among the acts I've done,
Just life's hard battles fought and sometimes won;
Only a Mother's life, from day to day,
But thank you, Lord, for showing me the way.

Pioneer Centennial Conference

. . . . BRADFORD . . . .

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